



Frequently Asked Questions About The Street Maintenance Sales Tax Program

What is a street sales tax?

Answer: State legislation allows municipalities to collect a quarter-cent sales and use tax exclusively for the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing public streets and alleys, with voter approval.

What is the main purpose and goal of the Street Maintenance Sales Tax Program?

Answer: To provide timely and cost effective rehabilitation and preventive maintenance of existing public streets within the city limits of Arlington. The goal is to improve mobility and extend the life of streets.

How long has Arlington been collecting a sales tax for street maintenance?

Answer: Arlington voters went to the polls in September 2002 and approved a sales and use tax for street maintenance as a new funding source for ongoing street repair and maintenance. Prior to the election, a fee for street maintenance was added to the water utility bill.

How much has been collected so far?

Answer: Since voters approved the sales and use tax for street maintenance, the city has collected approximately \$40 million. The City of Arlington collects an estimated \$10-11 million annually from sales tax revenues.

How many streets does Arlington have?

Answer: Arlington has approximately 3,000 lane miles of streets and roadways.

How many streets have been maintained or repaired since voters authorized the sales and use tax in 2002?

Answer: Arlington began collecting the sales tax on January 1, 2003. To date, the Public Works and Transportation Department has completed preventive maintenance on about 800 lane miles.

How has the money been spent?

Answer: Seventy-five percent of every dollar collected was spent on materials and contracts. Microseal programs have been completed on streets to seal the surface and prevent moisture infiltration and deterioration. Asphalt has been ground and mixed with concrete to create new road surfaces in some neighborhoods. Some street surfaces have been replaced with new surfaces. The City of Arlington has also purchased a new pavement management system and recently implemented an inventory and pavement rating system.

How does the City of Arlington determine what streets will be maintained or repaired first?

Answer: The Public Works and Transportation Department uses its pavement management system to help assess and determine maintenance needs. Once streets are identified, coordination occurs with Arlington Water Utilities to ensure a new street surface is not damaged shortly after work is completed.



Are other cities collecting a sales tax for street maintenance?

Answer: According to the State Comptroller's Office, the North Texas cities of Grand Prairie, Haltom City, Lake Worth, Pantego and Samson Park currently have sales tax programs for street maintenance.

How do I find out if my street is on the schedule for preventive maintenance or repair?

Answer: Go to www.ci.arlington.tx.us and visit the Public Works and Transportation Web Page. The 2006 maintenance schedule is posted. The City of Arlington sends letters within two to three weeks before work is to begin. As a reminder, usually within a week before work is to actually start, the City will post door hangers.

Why is this issue on the election ballot this Spring?

Answer: The sales and use tax expires every four years. State legislation requires voters to reauthorize the local tax every four years.

How much will it cost me?

Answer: For every one dollar you spend in Arlington, 25 percent of one penny goes to street maintenance.

What is the City's current sales tax rate?

Answer: The current sales tax rate is 8 percent. Reauthorizing the street sales tax will not increase the tax rate.

If approved by voters, when will the sales and use tax expire?

Answer: The renewal will begin January 1, 2007, and continue until December 31, 2010.

Before You Go ... Election Information

Early Voting Dates and Times:

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, May 1-5
7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, May 6
11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, May 7
7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday and Tuesday, May 8-9

Early Voting Locations:

- Bob Duncan Center
2800 S. Center Street – 76014
- Arlington Municipal Building
101 W. Abram St. – 76010
Replaces Kookan Elementary School
- City of Arlington – Water Utilities South Service Center, 1100 SW Green Oaks Blvd. – 76017
- Sherrod Elementary School
2626 Lincoln Drive – 76006

Election Day is Saturday, May 13

The polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. on Election Day

Vote Where You Live. Vote Where You Work.

Until May 9, voters may use any of the Early Voting locations in Tarrant County, including Kennedale, Mansfield and Fort Worth.

For a complete listing of Election Day polling locations:

www.ci.arlington.tx.us/citysecretary/polling.html



**For more information about the Street Maintenance Sales Tax Program,
call 817-459-6350**

City of Arlington
Public Works and Transportation Department
101 W. Abram St.
Arlington, Texas 76010

Also available in Spanish.

www.ci.arlington.tx.us

